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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/881,375	06/14/2001	Tsuyoshi Fukuda	B422-162	6884

26272 7590 09/27/2002

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EXAMINER	
NGUYEN, MICHELLE P	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

2851

DATE MAILED: 09/27/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/881,375	FUKUDA, TSUYOSHI <i>[Signature]</i>	
	Examiner Michelle Nguyen	Art Unit 2851	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 August 2002.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

4) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 14 June 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 6 recites the limitation "optical light beam" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in–
(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or
(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

3. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,359,652 to Takada.

With regard to claim 1, Takada discloses a camera comprising:

a lens mount (lens holding unit 331) (see Fig. 5);

an image taking device (photographic element 301) designed to photoelectrically convert light received (see Col. 6, lines 25-6, Fig. 5);
a front main body member (front casing 1001) which forms a front portion of a main body (case 901) of the camera (see Fig. 4);
a rear main body member (rear casing 1002) which forms a rear portion of the case 901 of the camera and is coupled to the front casing 1001 (see Fig. 4); and

a central main body member (mounting structure 300) on which the lens casing holding unit 331 and the photographic element 301 are mounted and which is coupled to at least one of the front and rear casings 1001, 1002 (see Col. 6, lines 14-21, 60-1, Figs. 4, 5).

With regard to claim 2, Takada teaches the mounting structure 300 to be fixed to only the front casing 1001 of the front and rear casings 1001, 1002 (see Fig. 4). Here examiner considers the mounting structure 300 to be fixed to the front casing 1001 via the lens casing 902, and the rear casing 1002 to be fixed to the front casing 1001 via the screw 1003, thereby holding in place between the front and rear casings 1001, 1002 the mounting structure 300.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 3, 4, 8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,359,652 to Takada.

With regard to claims 3 and 4, Takada teaches the camera as discussed above with respect to claim 1 to further comprise only one coupling member (screw 1003) for coupling the front and rear casings 1001 and 1002, respectively. However, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to duplicate the screw of Takada to further secure together the front and rear

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casings (see Col. 5, lines 63-5, Figs. 3, 4). Further, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to duplicate the screw of Takada such that the screws are arranged on both sides of the mounting structure for distributing the force, which, in turn, further secures together the front and rear casings.

With regard to claim 8, Takada does not teach the front and rear casings 1001, 1002 to comprise metal parts. However, Takada does teach a chassis 320 and a mounting plate 350, both constituting portions of the mounting structure 300, to be manufactured using metal, which acts as a shield against electromagnetism (see Col. 9, lines 14-9). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to fabricate the front and rear casings of Takada with metal parts for providing more shielding against electromagnetism.

With regard to claim 10, Takada teaches electric circuits to be formed on both sides of a substrate 310, thereby teaching more implicitly the camera as discussed above with respect to claim 8 to further comprise an electric component part placed between the front and rear casings 1001, 1002, the casings 1001, 1002 being rendered conductive to the electric ground.

6. Claims 1 and 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,828,919 to Furuya et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,561,458 to Cronin et al.

With regard to claim 1, Furuya et al. disclose a camera comprising:
a lens mount (body plate 41) (see Col. 7, lines 32-6, Fig. 9);

a front main body member (front cover 1) which forms a front portion of a main body of the camera (see Fig. 5);

a rear main body member (rear cover 4) which forms a rear portion of the main body of the camera and is coupled to the front cover 1 (see Fig. 5); and

a central main body member (camera body 44) on which the plate 41 is mounted and which is coupled to at least one of the front and rear covers 1, 4 (see Col. 6, lines 52-3, Col. 8, lines 12-21, Fig. 9).

Instead of teaching the camera to further comprise an image taking device designed to photoelectrically convert light received, Furuya et al. teach the camera to further comprise as an image taking device photographic film (see Fig. 9). However, Cronin et al. disclose an electronic imaging module for replacing in a conventional photographic camera (camera 10) photographic film with electronic means such as a CCD (see Col. 4, lines 59-64, Col. 7, lines 4-9, 53-4, Figs. 2A, 2B, 3A). Cronin et al. further disclose the imaging module as a central main body member (module 20b) on which a lens mount (housing 62) and the CCD are mounted and which is coupled to at least one of front and rear main body members (main housing section 11, rear door 12) which form front and rear portions, respectively, of a main body of the camera 10, thereby rendering the module 20b analogous to the camera body of Furuya et al. (see Fig. 2A). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to replace the camera body of Furuya et al. with the module of Cronin et al. for converting the conventional photographic camera into an electronic imaging camera.

With regard to claim 5, Furuya et al. teach the camera as discussed above with respect to claim 1 to further comprise:

a finder optical device (viewfinder unit 49) mounted on the camera body 44 (see Col. 8, lines 42-5, Fig. 7); and

a mirror unit (mirror box 43) which is mounted on the camera body 44 and reflects an object light beam and guides the object light beam to the viewfinder unit 49 (see Col. 6, lines 3-7, Figs. 6-9).

With regard to claim 6, Furuya et al. teach the viewfinder unit 49 as discussed above with respect to claim 5 to include a focal plate (focusing screen) serving as an imaging plane for the object light beam reflected by the mirror box 43 (see Col. 6, lines 3-7).

With regard to claim 7, Furuya et al. teach the camera as discussed above with respect to claim 5 to further comprise a focus detection device which is mounted on the camera body 44 and performs focus detection by using an optical light beam from the mirror box 43 (see Col. 6, lines 1-2, Col. 7, lines 3-4).

7. Claims 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,359,652 to Takada as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,697,005 to Kikuchi.

With regard to claims 8 and 9, Takada does not teach the front and rear casings 1001, 1002 to comprise metal parts. However, Kikuchi discloses a camera comprising a front main body member (cover A21) which forms a front portion of a main body of the camera and a rear main body member (rear cover A23) which forms a rear portion of

the main body of the camera and is coupled to the cover A21, thereby rendering the covers A21, A23 analogous to the front and rear casings of Takada (see Fig. 8).

Kikuchi teaches the cover A21 to be made of aluminum and formed by pressing for not only preventing the front surface of the camera from being damaged but to upgrade the appearance of the camera as well (see Col. 1, lines 27-32, Col. 5, lines 8-13, Fig. 8).

Although Kikuchi does not teach expressly the rear cover A23 to be made of aluminum, Kikuchi does refer to cover assemblies made entirely of metal (see Col. 1, lines 21-3). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to fabricate the front and rear casings of Takada with metal parts as disclosed by Kikuchi for preventing damage to the entire surface of the camera.

With regard to claim 8, Kikuchi teaches the camera as discussed above with respect to claim 8 to further comprise flash means, thereby teaching implicitly an electric component part to be placed between the covers A21, A23, the covers A21, A23 being rendered conductive to electric ground (see Col. 4, line 50 to Col. 5, line 34). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate into the combined invention as discussed above with respect to claim 8 an electric component as disclosed by Kikuchi for enabling a flash device.

8. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,359,652 to Takada as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,058,274 to Omiya.

With regard to claim 11, Takada does not teach the camera to further comprise an accessory mount. However, Omiya discloses a camera (camera 10) comprising a

front main body member (front cover 71) which forms a front portion of a main body of the camera 10 and a rear main body member (rear cover 50) which forms a rear portion of the main body of the camera 10 and is coupled to the front cover 71, thereby rendering the front and rear covers 50, 71 analogous to the front and rear casings of Takada (see Figs. 1-5). With respect to the cover assembly, Omiya teaches the camera 10 to further comprise a casing member (top body panel cover 72) on which an accessory mount portion (accessory shoe 327) on which an electronic flash and other accessories can be detachably mounted is fixed (see Col. 5, lines 12-5, Fig. 5). Although Omiya does not disclose coupling means for attaching the top body panel cover 72 to the front cover 71, Omiya does reference a known camera, wherein a top body panel cover is supported by a reinforcing member (segment 62) mounted on a decorative sheet which is attached to a front cover (see Col. 1, lines 11-6, 35-7, Fig. 10). Here Omiya explains that the decorative sheet is made of metal and that the segment 62 is welded to the decorative sheet. Therefore, it is understood that segment 62 is made of metal. Omiya further explains that the segment 62 maintains the front of the top body panel cover within the same plane as the front cover for providing excellent external appearance (see Col. 1, lines 37-42). It would have been obvious, then, to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate into the camera of Takada a top body panel cover having an accessory shoe as disclosed by Omiya for attaching an accessory, and being supported by a segment as discussed by Omiya for improving the appearance of the camera.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The following patents are provided to further show the state of the art with respect to a camera comprising an image taking device designed to photoelectrically convert light received:

U.S. Patent No. 6,393,224 to Stern et al.

U.S. Patent No. 5,739,853 to Takahashi

The following patent is provided to further show the state of the art with respect to accessory mount portions:

U.S. Patent No. 6,453,126 to Abe

10. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michelle Nguyen whose telephone number is 703-305-2771. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Russ Adams can be reached on 703-308-2847. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9318 for regular communications and 703-872-9319 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-4900.

mpn
September 23, 2002


RUSSELL ADAMS
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